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Dated: 5/4/04

Signature: Kathryn L. Nash

(Kathryn L. Nash)

Docket No.: 65703-0108
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Mark A. Tom et al.

Application No.: 10/619,218

Confirmation No.: 7031

Filed: July 14, 2003

Art Unit: 3612

For: SUN VISOR ASSEMBLY WITH
REINFORCING CORE PLATE

Examiner: J. Pape

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action mailed April 13, 2004, in which the Examiner indicated that the patent application contains claims directed to the following alleged patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Figures 1-5; and

Figures 6-11.

Applicants elect the claims of Figures 6-11, namely claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 15 with traverse. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the separation of the species associated with Figures 1-5 and species associated with Figures 6-11. The subject matter of the two species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of one of the two species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the other species. See MPEP § 803, which states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." (Emphasis added). This policy should apply in the present application to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to the Applicants and duplicative

examination by the Patent Office. Therefore, in view of the foregoing, the election is made with traverse as to Figures 6-11.

The Examiner asserted that no claim appears to be generic to all the alleged species. However, Applicants respectfully contend that independent claim 1 is generic to each of the alleged species. Upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of the claims to additional species that are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

If the Examiner has any questions with respect to this communication, he is kindly urged to call the undersigned.

It is believed that any additional fees due with respect to this paper have already been identified. However, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this paper that are not identified in any accompanying transmittal, permission is given to charge account number 18-0013 in the name of Rader, Fishman and Grauer PLLC.

Dated: 5/4/04

Respectfully submitted,

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